



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-seventh session

9 September–11 October 2024

Agenda item 10

### Technical assistance and capacity-building

## Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 11 October 2024

### 57/34. Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Reaffirming* that all States have a responsibility to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to discharge their obligations under the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant instruments to which they are parties,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007, 7/20 of 27 March 2008 and S-8/1 of 1 December 2008,

*Recalling further* its resolutions 10/33 of 27 March 2009, 13/22 of 26 March 2010, 16/35 of 25 March 2011, 19/27 of 23 March 2012, 24/27 of 27 September 2013, 27/27 of 26 September 2014, 30/26 of 2 October 2015, 33/29 of 30 September 2016, 35/33 of 23 June 2017, 36/30 of 29 September 2017, 39/20 of 28 September 2018, 42/34 of 27 September 2019, 45/34 of 7 October 2020, 48/20 of 11 October 2021, 51/36 of 7 October 2022 and 54/34 of 12 October 2023, in which the Human Rights Council called upon the international community to support the efforts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its institutions with a view to improving the situation of human rights and responding to its requests for technical assistance,

*Taking note* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation and the activities of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,<sup>1</sup> submitted to the Human Rights Council in accordance with its resolution 54/34,

*Taking note also* of the report of the team of international experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo,<sup>2</sup> submitted to the Human Rights Council in accordance with resolution 54/34, and of its conclusions and recommendations,

*Noting with concern* the delays in implementing the measures being taken by the Government to improve the justice system, both the courts and prisons, in particular Makala Prison,

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<sup>1</sup> [A/HRC/57/76](#).

<sup>2</sup> [A/HRC/57/81](#).

*Deeply concerned* about the continuing human rights violations and abuses, including those committed against women and children, particularly in conflict-affected areas,

*Concerned* about the deteriorating security and human rights conditions in some sectors in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with a situation that continues to give cause for concern in Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and Tanganyika in particular,

*Concerned also* about the use of hate speech, in violation of article 20 (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and requesting the Government to expedite the process for the adoption of the bill on this issue currently under discussion in Parliament,

*Noting* the progress made by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in preventing and ending the recruitment and use of children,

*Concerned* about the humanitarian consequences of the violence affecting civilian populations, particularly women and children, which have led to a significant increase in the number of internally displaced persons and persons in need of humanitarian assistance,

*Welcoming* the progress made in recent years and the measures taken by the President to combat the violations of fundamental freedoms and human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

*Calling on* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue and step up its efforts to respect and uphold all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with its international obligations, and to respect the rule of law,

*Recalling* the need to guarantee not only the right of opposition, but also the full exercise by Parliament of its mandate in a democratic system,

*Noting* the cooperation between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the team of international experts, including the facilitation of access to the country, sites and persons,

*Noting also* the efforts made in the region, in particular by the African Union, the Southern African Development Community, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the East African Community, through the Luanda and Nairobi processes, aimed at contributing to peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

*Noting further* the encouraging progress made through the mediation by Angola, notably at the last two ministerial meetings held in Luanda in August and September 2024, towards achieving lasting peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and defusing tensions in the Great Lakes region,

*Welcoming* the Government's decision to pursue its cooperation with the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office, particularly in the context of the withdrawal of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

*Noting* the progress made in combating impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence, including through the promulgation by the President of Act No. 22/065 of 26 December 2022, which establishes the basic principles on protection and reparations for victims of conflict-related sexual violence and victims of crimes against the peace and security of mankind,

*Noting with great concern* that the situation of prolonged conflict in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has led to numerous human rights violations and abuses and to the illicit exploitation of natural resources in that part of the country and prevents the population from fully enjoying their rights and freedoms,

*Expressing its concern* at the documented cases of sexual violence, including rape and sexual slavery, the killing and maiming of children and the recruitment and use of children

by armed groups, documented in the reports of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence<sup>3</sup> and on children and armed conflict,<sup>4</sup>

*Calling on* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to find a durable solution to the problem of sexual and gender-based violence against children by implementing the 2012 plan of action and by prioritizing prevention, protection of the population and the provision of services to child survivors,

*Noting* the efforts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to meet its commitments under the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, signed in Addis Ababa on 24 February 2013,

1. *Condemns* all violations of human rights and abuses, as well as the illicit exploitation of natural resources, in particular in the areas affected by armed or intercommunal conflict in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the situation continues to lead to significant population displacement;

2. *Also condemns* the activities of armed groups and the resurgence of attacks against civilians, the international forces of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, humanitarian actors and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo by rebel and terrorist groups, mainly those of the Allied Democratic Forces, the Cooperative for the Development of the Congo, the “Wazalendo” self-defence groups, the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda and the Mouvement du 23 mars, as well as the occupation by such groups, in particular, of Bunagana and a number of other nearby localities, where they commit daily atrocities and human rights abuses and serious violations of international humanitarian law;

3. *Strongly condemns* any support given by anyone to these rebel and terrorist groups that roam the country, in flagrant violation of the principles relating to the promotion and protection of human rights, and calls for such support to end immediately;

4. *Encourages* the countries of the region and the international community as a whole to support the Luanda and Nairobi processes for the return of lasting peace in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region;

5. *Encourages* the mediator appointed by the African Union, namely, the President of Angola, to pursue his efforts with a view to the restoration of peace in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Great Lakes region, which has been ravaged by decades of armed and intercommunal conflict;

6. *Notes* the efforts made by the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to bring to justice the alleged perpetrators of serious crimes committed throughout the country, encourages them to take all necessary measures to ensure that survivors have access to justice and that all the alleged perpetrators are brought to justice, and welcomes the convictions already pronounced;

7. *Commends* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the submission of its national report<sup>5</sup> under the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review, due on 5 November 2024;

8. *Also commends* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the submission of its initial report on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, on 22 May 2024, as well as its exceptional report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, on 22 June 2024;

9. *Takes note* of the decision to operationalize and revitalize the Human Rights Liaison Body, in particular through the appointment by ministerial decree of the Minister of Human Rights, in May 2023, of the members of the technical secretariat of this local mechanism for cooperation between the Government, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and civil society;

<sup>3</sup> S/2024/292.

<sup>4</sup> A/78/842-S/2024/384.

<sup>5</sup> A/HRC/WG.6/47/COD/1.

10. *Encourages* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to submit its sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth periodic reports on the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination as soon as possible;

11. *Also encourages* the Government to set up national and provincial committees to monitor pretrial detention, in accordance with its national policy on justice sector reform 2017–2026;

12. *Notes* the progress of the trial in the case involving the assassination of two United Nations experts before the High Military Court, and encourages the continuation of the proceedings until all the perpetrators have been convicted;

13. *Also notes* the efforts made to raise awareness of the national policy for the promotion and protection of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable persons and the national strategy for the empowerment and social inclusion of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable persons;

14. *Encourages* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to improve conditions of detention and to take additional urgent measures to relieve prison overcrowding, as well as to consider limiting pretrial detention to the period authorized by law, where appropriate, in order to prevent unfortunate incidents such as those which occurred on the night of 1–2 September 2024, and to ensure judicial oversight of all places of detention, and invites the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the necessary technical, logistical and financial support to the Government in its efforts to relieve overcrowding in places of detention;

15. *Decides* to renew, for one year, the mandate of the team of international experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and requests the team to provide the necessary technical support to the Government in implementing effectively its National Transitional Justice Policy, in particular by taking account of the cross-border nature of conflict and insecurity in the Great Lakes, identifying the causes of conflict and preventing their recurrence, and designing and implementing mechanisms for transitional justice and the fight against impunity, and encourages it to support the Government in this regard, in particular by proposing concrete measures;

16. *Encourages* collaboration between the team of international experts and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region;

17. *Also encourages* the collaboration of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with all United Nations mechanisms, including the universal periodic review and the special procedures;

18. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue to provide the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with technical assistance, including the necessary forensic expertise, to support the country's judicial authorities in their investigations into allegations of serious human rights violations and abuses, including conflict-related sexual violence and grave violations of children's rights, with a view to bringing the perpetrators to justice, and to strengthen the technical assistance team with the necessary technical and financial resources to help the Government implement effective mechanisms to combat impunity, in accordance with the wishes expressed by the President of the Republic during the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Human Rights Council;

19. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to continue to support the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the development and strengthening of its forensic medicine capacities, in particular through the effective implementation of the road map and recommendations of the Kinshasa Declaration adopted at the international symposium on forensic medicine in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, held in Kinshasa from 17 to 19 July 2023, paying particular attention in this regard to the reform of the legal framework and the development of national expertise and national infrastructure, and thus to assist the Government in acquiring the necessary skills and Congolese specialists in the field of forensic medicine;

20. *Further requests* the High Commissioner to continue to support the Government in the development and implementation of its National Transitional Justice Policy;

21. *Requests* the High Commissioner to provide the provincial Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission of Kasai-Central with increased technical and financial support to help it implement its mandate to shed light on the crisis in this region and propose solutions for lasting peace;

22. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to provide the Government with technical support to help it establish mechanisms to protect human rights in the extractive industries, in particular children's rights;

23. *Further requests* the High Commissioner to support the efforts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the fulfilment of the right to development as a means of promoting sustainable and participatory development and conflict prevention at various levels of society;

24. *Calls on* international actors and partners, under the auspices of the Office of the High Commissioner, to provide the additional financial resources and technical and logistical support necessary for the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to consolidate its efforts in the field of transitional justice;

25. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to organize, before its sixtieth session, a meeting to evaluate the implementation of the present resolution, bringing together all the actors involved and with the aim of assessing the progress made in the fields of forensic science and transitional justice;

26. *Requests* the team of international experts to submit its final report to the Council, in the framework of an enhanced interactive dialogue, at its sixtieth session and to present it with an oral update at its fifty-eighth session;

27. *Requests* the High Commissioner to present the Council with an oral update on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in the framework of an enhanced dialogue, at its fifty-eighth session;

28. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to prepare a comprehensive report on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to submit it to the Council, in the framework of an enhanced interactive dialogue, at its sixtieth session;

29. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter until its sixtieth session.

*49th meeting  
11 October 2024*

[Adopted without a vote]